

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) An agent for suppressing side effects of an antitumor agent which comprises a mixture of cyclic and/or straight chain poly lactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 20.

2. (Original) An agent for inhibiting hair loss which comprises a mixture of cyclic and/or straight chain poly lactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 20.

3. (Currently Amended) The agent according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ which is used for inhibiting hair loss caused by the use of antitumor agents.

4. (Currently Amended) The agent according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein the lactic acid, which is a repeating unit in polylactic acid, is substantially comprised of L-lactic acid.

5. (Currently Amended) The agent according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ wherein the mixture of cyclic and/or straight chain poly lactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 20 is a mixture of polylactic acids that is produced by polymerizing lactide in the presence of the compound represented by formula (3):  $\text{Me-N(R}^1\text{)(R}^2\text{)}$  wherein Me represents an alkali metal and  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  each independently represent an aliphatic group or an aromatic group.

6. (Original) The agent according to claim 5 wherein Me represents lithium.

7. (Currently Amended) The agent according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~ wherein  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  each independently represent an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

8. (Currently Amended) The agent according to claim 5 ~~any of claims 5 to 7~~ wherein Me represents lithium, and  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  represent an isopropyl group.

9. (Currently Amended) The agent according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ wherein the mixture of cyclic and/or straight chain poly lactic acids having a condensation degree of 3 to 20 is a substantially cyclic poly lactic acid mixture.

10. (Currently Amended) Food and drink for suppressing the side effects of an antitumor agent or inhibiting hair loss, which comprises the agent according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~.